

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are amended and new claims 6-8 are added herein. Support for the Amendment is found, for example, on pages 21-22 as well as pages 8-9 of the specification. No new matter is added. Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-8 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-5 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 13 and 14 of copending Application No. 10/806,424.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite an inkjet recording ink comprising an aqueous medium having dissolved therein a dye represented by formula (I), which is water-soluble and contains a lithium ion as a counter ion, wherein the total amount of a cation in said ink except for a lithium ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary nitrogen ion and an ion produced by proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic material is 0.5 wt% or less. Claims 13 and 14 of US '424 do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

II. Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Yamanouchi et al

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamanouchi et al (US 2002/0107301).

B. Kenworthy et al

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kenworthy et al.

C. Applicants' Response

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

The present claims as amended are directed to an inkjet recording ink comprising an aqueous medium having dissolved therein a dye represented by the formula (I), which is water-soluble and contains a lithium ion as a counter ion, wherein the total amount of a cation in said ink except for a lithium ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary nitrogen ion and an ion produced by the proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic material is 0.5 wt% or less.

Yamanouchi et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/10107301) and Kenworthy et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,237,097) do not disclose a dye represented by the formula (I), which is water-soluble and contains a lithium ion as a counter ion. Therefore, for at least this reason the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited references.

Further, the dye represented by the formula (I), which contains a lithium ion as a counter ion, enhances the solubility of dye and improves the stability of ink (see page 20 of the present specification). In addition, the excellent effect of the invention is achieved by setting the total amount of a cation in ink except for the specific ions to 0.5 wt% or less. The cited references Yamanouchi et al and Kenworthy et al do not suggest or even recognize that the dye of the present invention enhances the solubility of dye and improves the stability of ink and that

the excellent effect of the invention (particularly, free from bronze luster) is achieved by setting the total amount of a cation in the ink, except for the specifically listed ions, to 0.5 wt% or less. Therefore the present invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious over the cited references.

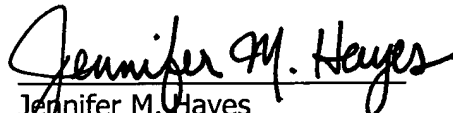
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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